

# Theatre of the Oppressed is an effective tool for creating change in today's world.

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Augusto Boal once asserted that: "The Theatre of the Oppressed creates spaces of liberty where people can free their memories, emotions, imaginations, thinking of their past, in the present, and where they can invent their future, instead of waiting for it." Founded in the early 1970s by Brazilian director and political activist Augusto Boal, The Theater of the Oppressed was a form of popular theatre designed for people to fight back against oppression they experience in their daily lives. The theatre of the oppressed is often seen in streets, schools, churches, regular theatres however was originally utilised by peasants and workers in its early stages. The Theater of the Oppressed is like a language, a platform as well as a therapy for those who experience oppression and is unable to fight back. By taking their stance through reenacting situations of oppression, The Theatre of the Oppressed analyzes and discusses oppression and power, and explores group solutions to these issues that could be applicable in the recurrence of the oppression. I strongly believe that Theatre of the Oppressed is an effective tool for creating change in today's world as the oppression that the protagonist feels could tug at one's heart strings and sympathise and attempt to eliminate the oppression experienced.

Furthermore, it is a safe open dialogue that not only could be taught in schools, but could be spreaded around communities.

To begin with, The Theatre of the Oppressed is an effective tool for creating change in today's world as the oppression that the protagonist feels could tag at one's heart strings and sympathise and attempt to eliminate the oppression experienced. In Forum theatre, one of the many types of The Theatre of the Oppressed, an anti model is shown in the first scene where the protagonist does not achieve his or her goal and is oppressed. A request made from the joker to audience allows them to change the outcome so the protagonist wins. The audience member is able to control the scene by a simple "STOP" and replace the role of the protagonist. The play then proceeds with the audience member making new choices in the role of the protagonist. The audience could easily see that how simple oppression can be defeated by the change of heart with implementing an easy solution. Without a doubt, this would change minds of all audiences and implement change in society.

Moreover, The Theatre of the Oppressed is a seed. A seed that is planted into the minds of our generation to better see the reality instead of what is displayed in front of us. The Theatre of the Oppressed explores various daily oppression situations that our generation mostly do not encounter. In some societies, women are the property of men and are strongly prohibited to wear clothing of their own preference or leave the house without a man. Daughters are often married at young ages and must obey their spouses forever and their human rights are often neglected and abused. This is an example of a society where women are oppressed, and is not something we, as fortunate Hong Kong children, would be confronted with. Through the education and better understanding of Theatre of the Oppressed, we could enrich our minds and foster sympathy as well as attempt to change the world around us. With a strong, passionate drive to change communities around us, we, as

leaders of our generations could change tradition and minds and eliminate oppression once and for all.

All in all, I think that The Theatre of the Oppressed is an effective tool for creating change in today's world as not only does the content move the audience's heart to eradicate the oppression shown in the theatre, young leaders of our generations could be fostered with the mindset of improving numerous lives that are too timid or are unable to stand up to all forms of oppression.

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